

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**December 19, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Thibault.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requests that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Dr. Grace Sullivan, Director of MCTV (Re: new employees of MCTV) stated: Good evening. I'd like to introduce two new staff members at MCTV. We've been down from five staff to a three staff complement and we are very happy to welcome Wilfredo Plaza, who is a recent graduate who came to Manchester to go to college, and he is like many people who have decided that they wanted to stay in Manchester and make a life here. Will's computer website skills are just remarkable for a young man his age. Then we have Audra Conforti-Jennings, who many people would know both the Conforti and Jennings names and I'm apt to say that many people would know many members of their families. Audra is a graduate of UNH, a journalism graduate. After UNH she went to Southern New Hampshire University and worked in Providence for a year. Then she came back to Manchester and has been a teaching assistant at Beech Street School in the ESL program and is currently in charge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program at Beech Street School. She'll come to work at MCTV in January. So I'm very happy to welcome them, and they will be working with you, as well as School Board members, city departments, and you'll see

them throughout the City of Manchester working. I think the most impressive thing, because there are so many people that applied for the job, when asked why they wanted to work at MCTV both talked about how they wanted to do something for the community. Both talked about their love of this City and they wanted to make this City better. So I wanted to welcome them and introduce you to them. Thank you very much.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street, Manchester, NH (Re: concerns of Ward 5) stated: I've come tonight to address some concerns for you that I would like to bring up and some recommendations. I have some handouts if I may have permission to hand them out to the Aldermen and Your Honor, just so you guys can follow along with me. These are concerns that have recently come up in Ward 5 and we would like to address the Board and Your Honor tonight...to see if we can get these resolved quickly and fairly. The first concern that we have tonight that we've noticed in our ward is double stop signs at three key locations in our City of Ward 5. The first intersection is Cedar Street and Lincoln Street. There are double stop signs that face the same direction on opposite sides of the street as you'll note in the pictures I've submitted to you. This is causing a concern for the traffic because people think now it is a one way and they are now doing a double lane and then either turning or going straight. We've noticed it several times. Another intersection is Spruce and Lincoln Street. Again, double stop signs on either side. Again, facing the same direction. And then the other street is Wilson and Spruce Street. Again, double stop signs. As you'll note in those illustrations, the Lake Street intersection with Wilson only has one stop sign for that entrance. The second concern is with three No Parking Anytime signs located near the residence of 424 Wilson Street. There's a woman or gentleman that live there at that address that has in egress in the back of their yard. It's a double gate as you can see from Illustration 2.0. The three No Parking Anytime signs have been placed there. We're concerned that there only needs to be either one or a sign saying No Parking From Here To Corner. We'd like to try to get them removed. Again, another concern that we have again, No Parking Anytime signs on Spruce Street near the intersection of Wilson. In Illustration 3.0 there are two signs near the MTA bus stop, again saying No Parking Anytime. Clearly there are lines showing where parking is and parking is not, so we would like to have those signs removed and just one sign mounted below the MTA sign. Another major concern for us, and it has been causing a lot of comments and things throughout the ward, is the strobe light effect for the red light on Maple and Spruce Street. Several residents who could not be here tonight wanted me to bring this concern to the Board and Aldermen. Obviously, this is only in one section of the City. Apparently there are some near Pine Street by the Verizon. People find this is very distracting at night, either driving or living near that area because the strobe is constantly going when the light is red. We would like it returned back to a standard red light, whereas it is confusing drivers. They think it's a snowplow emergency light and not a traffic light. Two last concerns that we would like to address that could be brought up for further review: portable toilets at the State Park near Hunt's pool. Several times we've noticed that people are urinating near the filtration system or the fences area. We have contacted the Police Department about it and their comments were, If we do not see them,

we cannot do anything about it, but please keep a note of time and dates that it's happening. We also would like some more information if we could request it tonight from the Board and the Aldermen and Your Honor. More information pertaining to the gas station/convenience store that was proposed for the location of the Four Seasons Superette that is there currently now. If we could request that information so that we could have further review and further comments for later Boards. Thank you, gentlemen, for hearing me tonight. Any comments? Questions?

Chris Leone, 503 Granite Street, Manchester, NH (Re: ordinance changes) stated: I'm here speaking on behalf of the Community Services of NeighborWorks Greater Manchester and a group of residents who have come here tonight to show their support for the proposed ordinance changes our committee recently submitted to the Committee on Administration and Information Systems. The reason for these ordinance changes are to improve the quality of life issues for the citizens in the City. We need to approach this two ways: first we need to beef up our City ordinances; secondly we need to be proactive by educating the residents and landlords and letting them know what is and what is not allowed as per City ordinances. Landlords, property owners, and tenants all suffer from looking at this filth that is created from the properties that continually violate City ordinances. This is a common sense issue that our Aldermen are getting sick of dealing with day after day. We need to address the root problem rather than putting the burden on City employees to clean up the mess every time we call to report this. Responsible landlords, including myself, have trouble finding quality tenants to put in our buildings because of the filth around our properties from people that just don't care about their surroundings. It is ruining our neighborhoods and, quite frankly, it looks trashy. The same properties that have trash or sanitary issues are usually the ones that mischief and crime originate from. The City needs to clamp down on ordinance violations that plague our City and need better tools on their side to do so. The ordinance changes are drafted to let offenders know that the City will not tolerate these violations and violators will be penalized heavily. These ordinance changes are designed to be applied to properties that continue to have violations. Landlords that are responsible are not the ones that we are looking to apply these new ordinances towards. It is the ones that have continuous violations and are more commonly referred to as repeat offenders in many cases. The way the ordinances are structured now, we as citizens in our neighborhoods have to look at this filth for two weeks to more than a month before the problem is addressed. When it is addressed, the property owner or occupant received a hundred dollar fine. In the year 2006 a hundred dollar fine is just not enough. Many of us have heard landlords say they would just rather pay the fine and make the problem go away. These changes to the ordinances will save the City money because the City will have to hire more employees to deal with this situation, or the City can make the changes to the ordinances to make them more strict. It is in the best interest of the City and the taxpayers to have these ordinances changed. We do not want to create higher taxes to pay for these jobs to deal with this issue. We do not want our property values to decrease because of the deterioration of our neighborhoods. We want to be able to attract quality citizens to our neighborhoods that will improve the community. At the

present time, in some areas of the City, it is hard to get people into our neighborhoods to fill our apartments. We feel that the changes are the best way to improve our neighborhoods regarding this issue. We are merely proposing these changes and are open to suggestions from the City officials regarding these changes. At this time I'd just like to turn around and ask anybody who supports these changes to the ordinances to please stand up and show your support. Thank you Mayor and Aldermen.

Glenn R.J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: budget complaint) stated: You know, I hate to have to come here and revamp the same problems over and over again, but you guys aren't doing anything about it. I want to thank you for putting up the walk lights and making the corner of Auburn and Chestnut Street finally a pedestrian friendly neighborhood. It only took a month, after you spent \$100,000. But that's not the problem tonight. The problem tonight is my second issue that I've been complaining for almost three months now. And I've been told for over a month by the department head and by some of the Aldermen that by Friday, it should be fixed. Well, it has not even been touched or even looked at. The corner of Pine and Lowell Street. Pine and Lowell Street. It isn't so hard to find. It is the first drainage system on that street. It is clogged, not with leaves but with dirt. My cane won't even go in it. That's how clogged it is. You can barely see the steel rim. These are the problems that we have in this City. We cannot maintain what we already basically own. And that is a shame. Taxes rise, problems don't get solved. I think it has come to a point that we have too many administrators and not enough employees to do the work. Who is sitting behind the desk ordering these jobs to be done and not being done? It shouldn't take three months or more to clean a ditch. It floods every time it rains. It's simple. Clean it, for the quality of life of this City. I remember this fall when the City, the Mayor and the City, asked the citizens to please empty their water because of the bugs that were flying around, because of the Triple E. Do you know who was the biggest offender of that law? The City. By not cleaning your drainage, you leave mud and water idle. And the mosquitoes love that. So before you start telling your public to help, you need to help yourselves. Clean up this City. You cannot fight crime if we cannot even follow our own ordinances. I was here a couple weeks ago and I heard a department head say, Trust me, trust me. I know who can afford to have a fine and who can't. It has nothing to do with who can afford it and who can't. If the law is being broken, if the ordinance is not being followed, they all need to be violated. We can't pick and choose who can break and who can't break it. You have people in this City who claims to live in a building and they don't. Their dog does. They claim that they're disabled and a vet, and they are, but they don't live there, and you're giving them free taxation. They're supposed to be living there. That's a crime. Look into it. You already have that information. But I don't see anything done about it. And the more you allow one or two people to get away with it, it's going to get worse. You can't fight crime if you don't fight your own. Thank you. Merry Christmas.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk